THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Implementation of NREG Act is monitored on regular basis. Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up at State as well as district levels. Village level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have also been set up for local monitoring. Members of the Central Employment Guarantee Council also undertake field visits to various districts. National level Monitors (NLMs) and Area Officers visit various districts to oversee the progress of the Act. NLMs have made 331 visits to Phase I and Phase II districts.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Information is being collected from these States.

Setting up of Land Reforms Commission

986. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to formulate a Land Reform Policy also planning to set up Land Reforms Commission to look after the land-related problems in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) It has been decided by Government of India to constitute a "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of Minister for Rural Development, and a "National Council for Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The composition, terms of reference, etc. of the Committee and the Council are being finalized.

Increase of rural/tribal poverty in the country

987. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural/tribal poverty is increasing in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;

(c) the reasons for increasing poverty in the rural/tribal areas of the country; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce the poverty in rural and tribal areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at National and State level from the large sample survey on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey was conducted in the year 2004-05 (NSS 61st Round). The poverty ratios among the social groups have been estimated from the percentage distribution of persons of the respective social groups as obtained from this large sample survey and the poverty line for all population. These estimates of poverty ratios of social groups are based on URP (Uniform Recall Period) consumption distribution of NSS 61st Round (July, 2004-June, 2005) in which the consumer expenditure data for all the items are collected from 30-day recall period. The estimates are based on the methodology outlined in the Report of the Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor'. These estimates of poverty in 2004-05 are comparable with the estimation of the NSS

50th Round conducted in the year 1993-94. The poverty ratios estimated from the large sample survey data for the years 1993-94 and 2004-05 shows that the percentage of rural scheduled tribes persons living below the poverty line in the country has come down from 51.9% in 1993-94 to 47.3% in 2004-05. The State-wise details are given in the Statement I and II (*See* below).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing poverty alleviation programmes such as Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) to provide wage employment and Sawarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) to provide self-employment to the rural poor. A Rural Housing Programme under the name Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is also being implemented throughout the country to provide shelter to the rural people living Below the Poverty Line (BPL). All these programmes have special provisions for the tribal population. The progress of implementation of these programmes is monitored in accordance with such special provisions. Recently, a National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has come into force and in the first phase 200 districts were covered. NREGA guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. With effect from 1.4.2008, all the districts of the country will be covered under NREGA which is a demand driven programme and SGRY will be subsumed with this scheme.

Statement-I

Percentage of Population below poverty line by States for 1993-94

Sl. No.	States	Rural			Urban		
		SC	ST	All Population	SC	ST	All Population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26.02	25.66	15.92	43.82	46.68	38.33
2.	Assam	45.38	41.44	45.01	14.34	7.11	7.73
3.	Bihar	70.66	69.75	58.21	55.16	35.76	34.50
4.	Gujarat	32.26	31.20	22.18	44.99	35.47	27.89
5.	Haryana	46.56	41.55	28.02	23.58	0.00	16.38
6.	Himachal Pradesh	36.89	63.94	30.34	18.52	0.00	9.18
7.	Karnataka	46.36	37.33	29.88	61.59	62.05	40.14
8.	Kerala	36.43	37.34	25.76	31.59	1.08	24.55
9.	Madhya Pradesh	45.83	56.69	40.64	65.00	65.28	48.38
10.	Maharashtra	51.64	50.38	37.93	52.56	61.06	35.15
11.	Orissa	48.95	71.26	49.72	47.45	64.85	41.64
12.	Punjab	22.08	27.00	11.95	27.96	0.00	11.35
13.	Rajasthan	38.38	46.23	26.46	48.63	13.21	30.49
14.	Tamil Nadu	44.05	44.37	32.48	81.50	30.08	39.77
15.	Uttar Pradesh	58.99	37.11	42.28	58.02	36.89	35.39
16.	West Bengal	45.29	61.95	40.80	37.73	19.41	22.41
	All India:	**48.11**	**51.94**	**37.27**	**49.48**	**41.14**	**32.36**

SC-Scheduled Castes, ST-Scheduled Tribes

N.B. 1. The estimates are based on the methodology outlined in the Report of the Expert Group on estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor.

2. The poverty line for all population is used for SCs and STs.

3. All India poverty ratio is worked out from the NSS distribution of persons and (implicit) all-India poverty line.

Statement-II

Percentage of Population below poverty line of social groups by States-2004-05

Sl. No.	States	Rural				Urban			
		ST	SC	OBC	Others	ST	SC	OBC	Others
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.5	15.4	9.5	4.1	50.0	39.9	28.9	20.6
2	Assam	14.1	27.7	18.8	25.4	4.8	8.6	8.6	4.2
3.	Bihar	53.3	64.0	37.8	26.6	57.2	67.2	41.4	18.3
4.	Chhattisgarh	54.7	32.7	33.9	29.2	41.0	52.0	52.7	21.4
5.	Delhi	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.6	9.4	35.8	18.3	6.4
6.	Gujarat	34.7	21.8	19.1	4.8	21.4	16.0	22.9	7.0
7.	Haryana	0.0	26.8	13.9	4.2	4.6	33.4	22.5	5.9
8.	Himachal Pradesh	14.9	19.6	9.1	6.4	2.4	5.6	10.1	2.0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.8	5.2	10.0	3.3	0.0	13.7	4.8	7.8
10.	Jharkhand	54.2	57.9	40.2	37.1	45.1	47.2	19.1	9.2
11.	Karnataka	23.5	31.8	20.9	13.8	58.3	50.6	39.1	20.3
12.	Kerala	44.3	21.6	13.7	6.6	19.2	32.5	24.3	7.8
13.	Madhya Pradesh	55.6	42.8	29.6	13.4	44.7	67.3	55.5	20.8
14.	Maharashtra	58.6	44.8	23.9	18.9	40.4	43.2	35.6	26.8
15.	Orissa	75.6	50.2	36.9	23.4	51.8	72.6	50.2	28.9
16.	Punjab	30.7	14.6	10.6	2.2	2.1	16.1	8.4	2.9
17.	Rajasthan	32.6	28.7	13.1	8.2	24.1	52.1	35.6	20.7
18.	Tamil Nadu	32.1	31.2	19.8	19.1	32.5	40.2	20.9	6.5
19.	Uttar Pradesh	32.4	44.8	32.9	19.7	37.4	44.9	36.6	19.2
20.	Uttarakhand	43.2	54.2	44.8	33.5	54.4	65.7	46.5	25.5
21.	West Bengal	42.4	29.5	18.3	27.5	25.7	28.5	10.4	13.0
	All India:	**47.3**	**36.8**	**26.7**	**16.1**	**33.3**	**39.9**	**31.4**	**16.0**

Legent SC=Scheduled Castes, ST=Scheduled Tribes, OBC=Other Backward Castes

NB. 1. The poverty ratios among the social groups are estimated from the percentage distribution of persons of the respective social groups as obtained from the large sample survey consumer expenditure data of the NSS (61st Round, July 2004 to June 2005) and the poverty line for all population.

2. The poverty ratios are based on URP (Uniform Recall Period) consumption distribution of NSS 61st round (July, 2004-June, 2005) in which the consumer expenditure data for all the terms are collected from 30-day recall period.

3. The estimates are based on the methodology outlined in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor.

4. All India poverty ratio for the social groups is worked out from the respective NSS distribution of persons and (implicit) all-India poverty line for all population.

5. The poverty ratio among the Scheduled Tribes population in some States may be treated with caution due to the smallness of the sample households based on which the class distribution of persons have been obtained in the NSS. These States are in the rural areas. Haryana and Punjab, where the number of sample households among the Scheduled Tribes (STs) is 10 or less, and Jammu & Kashmir and Tamil Nadu, where the number of sample households is 15 or less. Similarly, in the urban areas, the States are: Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Punjab, where the number of sample households among the Scheduled Tribes (STs) is 10 or less, and Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand, where the number of sample households is 20 or less.

Rural road connectivity under Bharat Nirman Scheme

988. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to provide road connectivity to all villages with a population of 1000 and above, under the Bharat Nirman Scheme by 2009;